

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, AORG, UN, KS

SUBJECT: UN MEMORIAL CEMETERY (UNMCK)

REF: (A) SEOUL 401; (B) STATE 11206; (C) STATE 7207

1. WORKING-LEVEL SESSION ON FORMATION OF UNMCK COMMISSION
JANUARY 18 FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF CUSTODIAN FOR CEMETERY AND
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSION.

2. WITH REGARD CUSTODIAN PROBLEM, POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS NARROWED
TO THREE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES.

A. COMMISSION WOULD HIRE A CIVILIAN (KOREAN OR FOREIGN)
CUSTODIAN TO SUPERVISE EXISTING KOREAN STAFF AND TO WORK DIRECTLY
UNDER COMMISSION. THIS WOULD MAINTAIN PRESENT OPERATION OF CEME-
TERY AS IS AND GIVE COMMISSION MAXIMUM CONTROL OF RESPONSIBILITY.

B. OPERATION OF CEMETERY WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO MND CEMETER-
IES OFFICE, WITH MOFA OFFICIAL ACTING AS HONORARY CUSTODIAN. THIS
WOULD ALLOW ADMINISTRATION OF CEMETERY BY EXPERIENCED ROKG AGENCY,
WITH COMMISSION SERVING LARGELY SYMBOLIC FUNCTION AND RETAINING
ONLY NOMINAL CONTROL OVER DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION.

C. OPERATION OF CEMETERY BY MND BUT WITH CIVILIAN CUSTODIAN
EMPLOYED BY COMMISSION. THIS WOULD COMBINE BOTH ROKG RESPONSIBIL-
ITY AND COMMISSION CONTROL.

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3. DRAFTING GROUP CONSISTING OF CANADA, TURKEY, AND UK NOW PREPARING DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMPLETION BY END OF JANUARY. FURTHER WORKING-LEVEL MEETING AT THAT TIME WILL DECIDE CUSTODIANSHIP AND PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND SET DATE FOR INAUGURAL SESSION OF COMMISSION. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMISSION WILL ROTATE ANNUALLY, WITH ROK TAKING FIRST YEAR AND OTHERS FOLLOWING ALPHABETICALLY.

4. REF C ASSIGNED CHARGE AS US REP. COMMISSION WILL BE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL (VICE MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY REPRESENT MOFA). EMBASSY ASSUMES AMBASSADOR IS TO BE DESIGNATED REP ON HIS RETURN. REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

5. RE CUSTODIANSHIP QUESTION EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO FAVOR ALTERNATIVE (B) BUT ANY OF THE PLANS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. SUSPECT CONSENSUS MAY BE FOR ALTERNATIVE (A). WE WILL SUPPORT AD REFERENDUM ANY MUTUALLY AGREED PROCEDURE PER REF B.
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